Indirect increase in rail fares

1287. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways is increasing the burden on passengers though there is no direct increase in the passenger fare;

(b) if so, the details thereof regarding reservation charges, special surcharges, ticket cancellation charges for reserved category and circular tickets and so on;

(c) whether any additional facilities are given to passengers for such increase in fare; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) There is no increase in passenger fares. However, from 1.4.2006, to recover the additional expenditure involved in maintenance and continuous upgradation of a networked system, reservation fee for tickets booked for journeys originating from other than the ticket booking station have been increased by (i) Rs. 10/- in second and sleeper and Rs. 15/- in other classes of Passenger, Mail and Express trains, (ii) Rs. 20/- in Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains and (iii) Rs. 15 in Second class and Rs. 20/- in AC Chair Car of Jan Shatabdi Express trains.

No special surcharge has been levied.

From 25.12.2005, in order to recover the increased cost in cancellation of tickets, cancellation charges on reserved tickets have been raised by Rs. 10 in second, Rs. 20 in sleeper and AC First/Executive and Rs. 30 in other classes.

There is no change in circular tickets.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not rise.